

Security Taboo in Carr

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SAN JOSE — Security questions today were taboo as jury selection continued in the James E. Carr murder-for-hire trial.

Superior Judge James B. Scott blocked defense attempts to question prospective jurors about their response to tight security im-

posed in his courtroom.

Richard Rodriguez, 22, of Baldwin Park, and Lamar Lloyd Mims, 21, are accused of the execution-style slaying of Carr last April 6.

Carr, a former cellmate of Soledad Brother George Jackson, was killed outside the back door of the home of his mother-in-law, Joan Hammer.

Deputy District Attorney Jack Cardinale advised the court he planned to call Mrs. Hammer to testify as one of some 45 witnesses subpoenaed.

The trial began yesterday in the same courtroom where Angela Davis was cleared of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy charges.

Murder Trial

Security equipment used in that trial was put into use at the entry to the courthouse, but there was no personal search of spectators entering the current trial.

A five-man security squad was placed inside the courtroom and spectators refused permission to enter or leave during the trial.

Judge Scott ruled out of

order several defense attempts to discuss courtroom security.

Ron Ruiz, attorney for Mims, questioned one juror about the metal scanner placed at the courthouse door only to be stopped.

Another question about the presence of five armed deputies was also blocked.

Rodriguez, a Vietnam vet-

eran who had associated with Los Angeles Black Panthers, and Mims, who had been a Panther, were arrested in Morgan Hill after Carr was killed.

Guns found in their car were said to have been used in the Carr slaying. A basket of firebombs similar to ones found near the Hammer home were also found in the auto.

Carr had been accused by an informant of killing a Black Panther captain, Fred

Amon Bennett, but was never formally charged.

Another informant claimed Carr had stolen money from the Soledad Brothers Defense Fund, but Mrs. Hammer denied during the preliminary hearing that he had had anything to do with the fund. A similar charge about Angela Davis Defense Fund thefts was also denied.

Assistant District Attorney William Hoffmann said that the prosecution was not concerned about the motivation,